Dear Howard, 8/22/77

Thanks much for your 8/16/77 and the enclosures, especially those relating to my efforts to obtain the Memo of Transfer.

The meeting was not in Rowley's office. I never met Rowley. It was in Tom Kelley's and I was there several times. This time was not the time of the meeting with Kelley, Goff and Warner - it was later.

It tells an even more Byzantine story than you perceive.

I trusted these Secret Service people to keep their word, as I kept and have kept mine.

This makes it clear that they have not been honest with me because I should have received these records in response to my PA request. I am sure there are others they have not given you.

Please bear in mind in all of this that if either the Secret Service or the FBI ever really retreated from their common decision arrived at independently by each that one bullet did not hit both JFK and Connally I have seen no indication of it. Certainly no record. Certainly also David Acheson was not aware of this, from his ~~xxxxx~~ memo of 11/4/66.

I feel confident that Kelley knew before his 11/13/70 that the Archives had withheld from me the copy of the memo of transfer he had given ~~to~~ me through the Archives.

There were conversations between Secret Service and DJ after this. Kelley reported them to me. He said that DJ told him not to give me a copy.

Of course I have received none of this in response to my PA request of DJ. I have received a little recently from the FBI and nothing or next to nothing from the Dept.

To a degree the related correspondence you have just been given is both false and self-serving. The most obvious aspect is that the essential materials were not the property of the Kennedy family. They were, literally and legally, the property of the Navy. The simplest way to have solved this problem, absent the official intent to lay everything on the Kennedy family, was to return all the medical stuff to the Navy. The Navy's regulations were explicit on the requirement to preserve these things, as I now recall for 50 years.

Acheson's memo is not really consistent with his record on this, as you may recall from the copy of Dick Whalen's memo on his meeting(s) with Acheson when he was preparing his SatEvePost piece. However, during there meetings the time did come when Acheson seemed to change. I suggest this represent the time and the cause.

Dick and his wife went up to see me at Hyattstown before cold weather in 1966. I do not recall the exact date. We were friendly for a while. His kids used to call me Uncle Harold. I'd stop off and visit with them when I was returning from Washington. They then were on my way. They lived on Macomb NW, between Wisconsin and Massassachusetts.

I just do not believe that all those many government lawyers did not realize until the last minute that there was this problem with the autopsy materials. Rather do I believe it was the crescendo of criticism of the Commission's conclusions of that time. I do not recall what Mark Lane was saying but he way lacing the country with expert appearances arranged by his experienced publisher. I do know that I was getting much attention and on all occasions did go into the front neck wound as one of entrance.

In his middle paragraph on the second page Acheson does go into what I was saying. I now have an FBI account of a TV show. Records were destroyed. I produced the proof on TV from the facsimile of the certification of it in Whitewash. The Dallas doctors did state that the front neck wound was from the front. I used this the same way. This was altered at the Navy hospital, as we now know. We also know that relevant evidence was suppressed, as I also charged. As I now recall I was emphasizing the absence of the prosector's notes.

Of this I'm certain, and that I have much correspondence with the Archives over it. It is likely I then had and used other evidence of this.

The Acheson memo also discloses that those people were conning each other. Like his saying "The department ~~(Justice~~ (Justice) feared" that without the autopsy material, "this charge could never be disproved." Meaning from-back shot. Well, the one way it could with certainty be disproved, in the sense of total destruction of the official story, is with that autopsy material. On this one point if that material is believed it shows no sample taken from the wound for examination and it does show fragmentation in that area, which precludes the official version of no fragmentation. Moreover, if this material had been available then I am sure there would have been a hue and cry over the overt medical false swearing about this and the failure of the commission to take any testimony from the radiologist or the medical photographer. As you know when DJ did get a panel of expert to examine this material regardless of their semantics they utterly destroyed the official account of the crime and the shooting and the autopsy.

At the bottom of page 371 of Earl Warren's Memoires he refers too generally to this panel. John P. Roche has since taken full credit for talking LBJ into this. (I note that in the editor's explanation at the end of page 372 he completely confirms what Senator Russell told me and I reported accurately and he went public with, if in a more limited way, when he knew he was dying.)

The last word in the Acheson memo is "attachments." They have not been provided to you.

This morning I'm tired. I did not begin that way. In fact as soon as I was dressed I walked 2,000 years, and a little more than an hour later another 1000. I believe this is not only good in general but helps with the limited circulation. However, when I walked about 400 more years when I got the mail it seems to have tired me. So maybe I'm forgetting some matters that would otherwise be obvious.

Perhaps this is partial explanation of the total non-compliance with my PA/FOIA requests for all files on me going back to 1/71. Where I have received some records they are incomplete. There are a number of factors, I'm convinced. If I have the time I'm confident I'll prove interference with my publishing capabilities in the manner you know. Unlike Lane I was not making wild charges and I was not charging wholesale conspiracies. An FBI report from New York on the first Alan Burke show I did is quite informative on this. The NY FO actually seemed to like what I said and how I said it. That ended as soon as they and it is now clear others were fed the vicious red-baiting fabrications of the FBI. (If you'd like to borrow a set of the Gunread and hasty) note I made let me know. About 20 1-spaced pages.)

It was in the time frame of the Acheson memo and this record-making that I spoke to Malcolm Kilduff, who led me to believe he saw what I was saying about the hazard to the Kennedy family in the seemingly official nature of the Manchester connection. He told me where he would be, after a long pause, and how to get him, that he would be incognito or others would not know (The Pierre in NYC) and that he agreed it was necessary for the family to detach itself from Manchester's writing, of which I knew from England. Whether or there there is this connection, it did follow closely upon his trip to New York. One service his p.r. clients does not have to keep his whereabouts secret.

If you think it is relevant to your own inquiries, especially with Archives and Secret Service, to ask if they were favored with any of the Hoover venom, ask and ask for copies. If the relwases I gave you are not adequate, draft others and I'll sign them. The FBI laid them on all AGs, all other lawyers, on each other and even on the State of Tennessee when I did the investigation that really did undo the "solution" to the King assassination. Now that I have partial proof of this I think the odd attitude of the judge, who openly disliked me from the first, which is what caused But not to use me as a witness. It was so clear to me I agrred. This may have been a great mistake. I'd have been able to wreck all that combination of fabrication and misrepresentation ad lid. I think it could have turned the evidentiary hearing around. (As you know I never was and neverm could be a communist and

could never have accepted any surrender of any independance of belief if I'd been tempted.) Can you imagine the uproar if they tried to pull that stuff about me celebrating the November Russian Revolution in September yet when it was an outing of the Jewish Welfare Board for Washington-area service personnel after the high holidays. Total fabrication. When I first wrote you and Jim about this I did it off the top of the head. It was not only rabbis who brought youngsters and others to see live animals, eggs hatching and all kinds of fowl and eggs being laid. There were ambassadors, Senators, others in the diplomacy, people from various executive agencies, reporters from the New York Times to NBC, then Ken Nessen, usually with small kinds. Chefs of some reknown, magazine editors. That courtroom would have rocked if they had tried such outrageous tactics, But the fact is this venom is repeated like ritual in all the internal FBI memos I've received, even minor Laboratory personnel repeating it like they were reading beads. So I can't believe this was not misused wherever some character thought it could lead to refusals of information. Inside DJ this is explicit enough as a reason.

My hunch is that with the Archives this began right after Marion Johnson's call to the FBI on 11/3/66, when I asked for the results of the spectrographic examinations. I have a carbon of what I wrote Jim about this last night. Meaning for you. That nonsense Cunningham gave Johnson to give me has been the official line since. Then he told the FBI brass that he had said nothing at all and then followed with his version of the red-baiting. They have that on hand in the FBI Lab? Yet it was immediate.

Either before this or with this I will be sending what I've just obtained from Dr. Rhoads and the Archives that bears on discrimination against me and the fact that they knew just about all the members and staff took Warren Commission records woth them. This is the first time Rhoads has signed a letter in a long time. I think I've also asked if the autopsy nites were included in the Memo of Transfer material. My chain of possession is complete to that point. No response. If you think this is within your requests and you want to follow up - it is related to the Memo of Transfer, your request - by all means do it. I'd rather you did now because I have so much less time.

In time you should receive other contemporaneous records like that of Acheson. I am confident that when you do you will find what I have said all along, that there was a concerted official effort to lay all blame for all inadequacies on the Kennedy family. Those not witting, like Acheson and perhaps other lawyers, were the captives of those on whom they depended for information. Trace this back and you'll find a spook behind each alleged fact or account.

I find it interesting that Acheson's name was later typed in on the 11/4/66 memo to the Secretary of the Treasury.

I've taken time in the hope it can help you. I add one further indication of the anti-Kennedy intent from the first. There has been this campaign that the Kennedys, esp. Bobby, kept the Commission from seeing the autopsy pictures and X-rays I have repeatedly printed proof that the Commission had them. Now Earl Warren's Memoires says they did have them. But this has received no attention. And Warren does not address the point I first raised in my first book: they were "best evidence " not for inclusion in what the Commission ~~does~~ released publicly but as the basis of the testiony of the doctors who testified to medical evidence and the autopsy. Here, especially when all the testimony was then in secret and labelled top secret, there simply was no question of bad taste or of privacy.

Best,